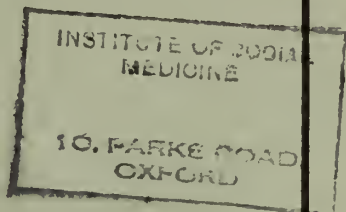


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ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

YEAR 1950

HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
1-5 ST. BRYCEDALE ROAD,
KIRKCALDY.

August, 1951.

To the PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCILLORS
OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the health of the Burgh for the calendar year 1950. The Report, drawn up in accordance with D.H.S. Circular No. 112/1950, is mainly statistical but the figures confirm the deterioration in the Burgh's health which was anticipated in 1945 and became increasingly apparent in subsequent reports.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES R. W. HAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

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STAFF

School Medical Services Child Welfare	James A. Petrie, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Dental Officer	Rachel I. Mears, L.D.S.
Health Visitors	Miss Charlesina Donaldson Miss Helen C. Keegans Miss Janet McLuckie Miss Elizabeth McPherson Miss Margaret A. G. McLean Miss Isabella Mitchell Miss Irene B. Redpath Miss Bessie Scott Miss Mary N. Tweedie Miss Christian Haig
Superintendent of Nurses	Miss Rachel M. Thomson
District Nursing Sisters	Miss J. Leitch Mrs. MacIntyre Mrs. Anne W. Scott Mrs. Walker Mrs. M. Welsh
Enrolled Assistant Nurses	Miss Bessie Berry Mrs. M. Smith
Municipal Midwives	Miss Jane Mulvaney Miss Mary C. P. Moore Miss M. Brown Miss M. Goldie (Resigned 15/7/50)
District Nurse Midwives	Mrs. Margaret Wylie Miss Margaret Davidson (Resigned 15/4/50) Miss Roseline G. Hawthorn Miss Barbara S. Williamson (Resigned 11/9/50) Miss Margaret Livingstone
Part-time Midwives	Mrs. Marion Tennant Mrs. Alice Weepers
" Authorised " and Assistant Welfare Officers	William Eadie Robert T. Cuthbert
Welfare Officer (Abden Home)	David Needham
Medical Officer (Abden Home)	Dr. George F. Cables
Consultant Oculist	C. R. D. Leeds, M.D., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., D.O.M.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector (and Inspector of Cleansing)	John Page, M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.
Depute Sanitary Inspector	Forbes B. Moodie
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	David K. Comrie John Irvine Robert Easson Joseph Oates
Assistant Cleansing Inspector	Angus C. Brown

CLINICS

Tuberculosis and V.D. Dispensary	.....	.....	.....	Dunnikier Road
Child Welfare ; Ante-natal ; Dental ; School and Minor Ailments ; Eye ; Ultra Violet Light, etc.				Loughborough Road
Child Welfare ; School and Minor Ailments ; Dental ; Ear, Nose and Throat, Immunisation, etc.			.....	Glebe Park
Child Welfare	.....	.....	.....	Alison Street
Child Welfare	.....	.....	.....	Smeaton

VITAL STATISTICS

VITAL STATISTICS

TABLE I

	KIRKCALDY	Average Rate for Large Burghs in Scotland
Population, estimated to middle of 1950	49,425	
Births, corrected	896	
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	18.1	17.8
Illegitimate birth-rate per 1,000 live births	4.8	5.2
Marriages	496	
Marriage rate	10.0	9.1
Deaths, corrected	672	
Death-rate per 1,000 population	13.6	12.5
Infant deaths	37	
Infantile Mortality rate	41	40
Still-births	27	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live births	29	28
Maternal deaths	2	
Maternal death-rate	1.1	
All Tuberculosis death-rate	0.55	0.69
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rate	0.42	0.61
Principal epidemic diseases death-rate	0.14	0.08
Area of Burgh	4,344	
Census of occupied houses	13,805	
Rateable value of Burgh	£377,493 10/-	

FOREWORD

The main vital statistics are tabulated on the opposite page from which it will be seen that the general death rate and the infant mortality rates are relatively high. The death rate from tuberculosis is not unduly high, but the number of new cases notified is steadily increasing (see page 18). The past fifty years showed a progressive and satisfactory reduction in these rates with a temporary setback attributable to the 1914-18 war. The aftermath of the recent war manifested itself in particular with tuberculosis, but the introduction of streptomycin, etc., has reduced the death rate from this disease. The infant mortality rate continued to decline despite the war and, as far as Scotland as a whole is concerned, the improvement has been maintained. In most respects Kirkcaldy had approximately a two years' lead over other Burghs up to and including the year 1948. Since then, however, the Burgh's health has deteriorated. It would be unwise to assume that Kirkcaldy reached the peak of its achievements in health in 1948 and that 1950 marks a similar position for the rest of the country. It is known that such vital factors as nutrition and housing are now determined by central rather than by local policy, but one must look nearer home for an explanation of the uncharacteristic trends in the Burgh's health record since 1948.

In regard, first of all, to the general death rate it is found that the increase is largely due to deaths in the elderly from respiratory troubles such as pneumonia and bronchitis. While the newer therapeutic measures are extraordinarily effective against pneumonia there is still a tremendous strain on the enfeebled hearts of elderly patients. This can be offset to some extent by skilled nursing on a 24-hour basis. Unfortunately, the beds available for the elderly sick have been reduced by nearly thirty beds as far as the Burgh is concerned. An augmented district nursing service plus a very full complement of home helps does not provide the necessary 24-hour attention.

Turning next to the increasing infantile mortality rate the cause is even more difficult to ascertain. More maternity beds are available—indeed there would appear to be almost a superfluity. The ante-natal sessions have been augmented and the skilled personnel has been doubled. Certain anomalies are noted, for example the domiciliary cases rarely appear before the obstetrician, but there is no significant difference between hospital and domiciliary results bearing in mind that the difficult case almost always finds its way into hospital. Nor can it be said with any certainty that the attendance of the family practitioner at *all* deliveries would have affected the results.

The third problem is that of the increasing incidence of tuberculosis. None of the clichés concerning mass radiography, increased facilities for diagnosis, or dispersal of infectious patients during the war, applies to Kirkcaldy. Inadequate housing and nutrition of the young adults are basic factors, but, as in the previous two problems, there may be adverse influences operating locally.

In all my post-war reports I have referred to the possible dis-integrating effect of the new social legislation if applied to the Burgh's health services and the results have been worse than was anticipated. The Burgh has certainly put more into the pooled services than it has got back. Others may have benefited accordingly, and it is probably true that standards have risen in some areas. The fact remains that, as far as Kirkcaldy is concerned, there are less beds for the elderly sick and for the tuberculous, and that the local diagnostic laboratory and epidemiological beds have disappeared. Of equal importance is the fact that maternity, infectious diseases, and tuberculosis hospitals—or rather those who now control them at the highest levels—have forgotten that they are not isolated entities but are complementary to the preventive services which provided them in the first instance. This fact has not been lost sight of by the present hospital staffs who have co-operated whole-heartedly, but they do not direct policy and the administrative framework is wholly artificial in that it divides personal health services into three parts. With the best of goodwill, for example, one cannot recapture the perfectly co-ordinated maternity and tuberculosis services which existed formerly. The individual may now fall between three stools. If he is not comfortable then it is extremely difficult to find who can put him right. The Medical Officer can only assist in trying to adjust matters where formerly he had the duty and the authority to do it. It is being suggested that *ad hoc* health authorities should be set up to cover all three divisions of the health service over fairly wide areas as an alternative to drastic amendment of the Act. There is a real danger that responsibility will become even more remote than it is at present, and one may well consider whether there can be any satisfactory compromise between full State medicine with its impersonal efficiency and economy and the rather unequal but more personal local service which existed formerly.

Certainly the Burgh, in its own interests, should consider the local implications which I submitted in a special report.* The general considerations of a State medical service have been advanced elsewhere.†

In its own particular sphere in relation to the National Assistance Act the Burgh has been perhaps unfortunate in its efforts to provide residential accommodation. A greater sense of urgency is reflected in the approval to "upgrade" Abden Home, but alternative accommodation is much needed and difficult to obtain. A stumbling block to the many alternatives which are being considered is undoubtedly the fact that old people become ill and may require immediate admission to hospital.

During the year no real epidemiological problem arose although at one time twenty-five direct and one hundred and twenty-one indirect contacts of smallpox were under observation in the Burgh. A special report was submitted to the Council which illustrated the dangers which arise in connection with the changed outlook which

has been referred to in connection with infectious diseases hospitals. Some of these illustrations have borne fruit, both here and elsewhere, and it is a pleasure to record that the East Fife Hospitals Board of Management has accorded me generous access and consultative facilities. The Co-ordinating Committee for the Health Services in Fife has also approved certain proposals submitted by the Burgh for improving the maternity services. To these local bodies, and not least to my own Council, along with their officers, I am indebted for their courtesy and co-operation.

* Report: "Public Health and the Local Authority," 8th February, 1950.

† HAY, J. R. W., British Medical Journal. Dec. 23, 1950. p.1447.

TABLE II

	Civil	Rate per 1,000 of Estimated population.
Births		
Legitimate	853	13.3
Illegitimate	43	4.8
Marriages	496	10.0
Deaths		
Infantile mortality rate (under 1 yr)	37	41
Neo-natal death rate (0—4 weeks)	21	23
(4—52 weeks)	16	18
Stillbirths	27	29
Maternal Deaths	2	2.2

TABLE III
Infant Mortality Statistics

	Number of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births
Under 1 week	12 (8m. 4f.)	13.4
1 to 2 weeks	3 (2m. 1f.)	3.3
2 to 3 weeks	6 (3m. 3f.)	6.6
3 to 4 weeks	— ()	—
4 weeks to 3 months	5 (4m. 1f.)	5.5
3 to 6 months	10 (6m. 4f.)	11.1
6 to 9 months	1 () 1f.)	1.1
9 to 12 months	— ()	—
TOTAL	37 (23m. 14f.)	41.0
CERTIFIED CAUSE OF DEATH		
Prematurity and Debility	7	7.8
Convulsions	1	1.1
Pneumonia	9	10.0
Gastro Enteritis	3	3.3
Spina Bifida	1	1.1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	8	8.9
Asphyxia	2	2.2
Meningitis (B. Coli: Septic)	1	1.1
Whooping Cough	1	1.1
Atelectasis	1	1.1
Hydrocephelus	1	1.1
*Other Causes	2	2.2
TOTAL	37	41.0

*Other Causes include Congenital Atresia Bile Duct (1)
Congenital Kidney Disease (1)

TABLE IV
Maternal Deaths

Total	Age	Cause of Death	Place of Death
2	36	Uraemic Coma. Chronic Nephritis with hypertension. Recent pregnancy and parturition.	Forth Park
	37	Accidental haemorrhage of Childbirth before abortion. Bilateral Cortical Necrosis of kidneys. Acute Uraemia.	Forth Park

TABLE V
Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Anaemia	—	1	1
Bronchitis	23	6	29
Cancer, Malignant Tumours	48	51	99
Causes, ill-defined and unknown	5	2	7
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	11	4	15
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Mal- formations, etc.	15	9	24
Diabetes Mellitus	3	4	7
Diarrhoea	4	3	7
Diseases of Skin and Organs of Movement.....	1	1	2
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	3	2	5
Heart Disease	97	115	212
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Hypertension without heart disease	3	3	6
Influenza	3	2	5
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	3	1	4
Meningitis, Disease of Spinal Cord	1	—	1
Nephritis, Acute or Chronic	6	6	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	11	5	16
Other Digestive Diseases	—	2	2
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Liver	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	5	4	9
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	4	6
Other General Diseases	2	3	5
Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	—	4
Other Violence	4	2	6
Pneumonia	8	12	20
Road Transport Accidents	3	—	3
Senility	9	13	22
Suicide	—	2	2
Syphilis	2	—	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	15	6	21
Tumours Non-Malignant or not Defined	—	2	2
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	50	57	107
Whooping Cough	—	2	2
	346	328	674

Of the 674 deaths which occurred during the year 1950, 430 were of persons over 65 years of age, 47 being over 85 years of age.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947

A. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS.

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22):

(a) ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS* (whether provided at Child Welfare Centres or at other premises).

	<i>Ante-natal</i>	<i>Post-natal</i>
(i) Number of clinics at end of year provided by local health authority	1	1
(ii) Number of clinics at end of year provided by voluntary bodies	—	—
(iii) Total number of women who attended at the clinics during the year	607	401
(b) CHILD WELFARE CLINICS*		
(i) Number of clinics at end of year provided by local health authority		4
(ii) Number of clinics at end of year provided by voluntary bodies		—
(iii) Total number of children under 5 years of age who <i>first</i> attended at the clinics during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were :		
(a) under 1 year of age		479
(b) over 1 year of age		63
(iv) Total number of attendances during the year made at the clinics by children who, at the end of the year were :		
(a) under 1 year of age		4,968
(b) over 1 year of age		1,474

*Clinics means clinic premises.

The conditions recorded were :

	<i>Mothers</i>	<i>Infants</i>	<i>Toddlers</i>
Anaemia	19	1	1
Teeth	—	31	1
Eyes	—	9	10
Ear, Nose and Throat	1	18	5
Other Ailments	10	49	19
Orthopaedic	1	4	5
Chest	—	25	3
Digestive Disorders	—	43	9
Diseases of the Skin	—	26	10
Nutrition	—	29	4
Hernia	—	40	—
Glands	—	5	3
Debility	—	5	—
Ringworm (arm)	1	3	—
Tonsils	1	—	6

Number of persons attending for U.V.R. treatment :

(adults, 11 ; children, 46)	57
Total attendances	634

(c) DENTAL CARE

Miss Mears, Dental Officer, reports: "There are two Dental Clinics in use in the Burgh; both are attached to General Clinics. Ante-natal cases with apparent dental defects are referred to me by the Consulting Obstetrician. Meantime, on account of staff shortage, it is impossible to make routine dental inspections and to give advice on the importance of oral hygiene in all cases. It is unfortunate that this cannot be done as there is a special clinic for first visit cases. If an ante-natal patient requires a general anaesthetic arrangements are made for the patient to attend the local Maternity Hospital where the Dental Officer can obtain the services of an anaesthetist. I endeavour to encourage mothers to bring pre-school children for examination and, where necessary, for treatment. The attendance of pre-school children has increased, and now a weekly session is being devoted to the 'under fives.' This clinic coincides with the baby clinic, thus making it more convenient for the mothers to bring their children; the child overcomes the general tendency of the public—the fear of dental treatment.

A routine dental examination is made of all children up to fifteen years of age attending schools (including day nursery schools) within the Burgh. The children are inspected at school and, where necessary, parents are notified and offered treatment. Schools are visited in rotation and the treatment of one school is completed before commencing another.

The children should be examined once a year at least but, unfortunately, this cannot be done unless there is an increase in staff. Under present conditions the Dental Officer requires about two years to make an inspection in all the schools."

	<i>Expectant Mothers</i>	<i>Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(i) Number inspected by dental officer	22	1	83
(ii) Number found to require treatment	22	1	83
(iii) Number accepting treatment	14	1	83
(iv) Number actually treated by dental officer	12	1	83

2. Midwifery (Section 23)

- (a) Total number of births (including still-births) occurring in the area during the year—that is, before correction for mother's residence

1,219

- (b) Number of births in (a) classified to show type of case and whether doctor present at confinement :—
- (i) Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Services (Scotland) Act, 1947 :
 - (a) doctor engaged and present at confinement 60
 - (b) doctor engaged but not present at confinement 244
 - (c) midwife alone (no doctor engaged) 1
 - (ii) Other domiciliary cases :—
 - (a) doctor engaged 9
 - (b) midwife alone (no doctor engaged) —
 - (c) conducted by outdoor staff of institution —
 - (d) without doctor or midwife —
 - (iii) Cases attended at institution (including private maternity and nursing homes) *in the area of the local health authority* 903
 - (iv) Emergency cases 2

Two Minnitt analgesia apparatus are being used by the Municipal Midwives.

Of the 1,194 confinements which took place in the Burgh the distribution was as follows :—

- (a) Conducted in patient's own home :
 - (i) Under National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 303
 - (ii) Not conducted under National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 10
- (b) Conducted in Forth Park Maternity Hospital :
 - (i) Burgh patients 536
 - (ii) County patients 328
 - (iii) Domiciliary cases T/F to Forth Park 17

Twenty-two midwives (including the staff of Forth Park Maternity Hospital) notified their intention to practise in the Burgh during 1950. Seven applications were received from necessitous expectant mothers, and baby clothing to the value of £18 18s. 6d. was granted. No recoveries were made.

TABLE VI
Notification of Births Act

	Live-births	Illegitimate	Still-births	Total
No. of births registered in the Burgh	1,126	44	38	1,208
No. of births transferred in	52	9	—	61
No. of births transferred out.....	1,178	53	38	1,269
	325	10	11	346
Total Burgh births registered	853	43	27	923
No. of births notified in Burgh			No. conducted in Forth Park	
Males	Females	Total	Burgh	County
648	571	1,219	881	338
			565	337

3. Health Visiting (Section 24)

The former procedure in the Burgh has been continued whereby the health visitor visits households in her area for all purposes, but certain health visitors have been seconded as liaison sisters at the Tuberculosis and V.D. Dispensaries. The ante-natal clinics are likewise attended by health visitors.

	<i>No. visited for first time, ex- cluding cases visited during previous year and cases known to have previously been visited in</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
(a) Local Health Authority Services :		
(i) Expectant Mothers	208	439
(ii) Infants	870	9,187
(iii) Children (1-5 years)	226	13,309
(iv) Cases of Tuberculosis	88	731
(v) Other cases :		
Adoption of Children (Regulation)		
Act, 1939	13	34
Children and Young Persons (Scot- land) Act, 1937	—	1
Old Persons	73	145
Infectious Diseases	506	506
Immunisations and Vaccinations	223	265
Domestic Help Scheme	217	1,178
Smallpox Contacts	149	952
Housing (Medical Conditions)	10	10
(b) School Health Services :		
Follow up work	(See School Report)	
(c) Other Services :		
(i) Cases visited at request of general practitioner	9	9
(ii) Cases visited at request of hospital organisation	16	22

Of the 234 infants visited at the age of six months, 51 were breast fed, 142 were artificially fed, and 41 were fed by both methods.

4. Home Nursing (Section 25)

The district or home nurses have been very fully employed during the year and have materially assisted the hospital out-patient departments by carrying out injections, dressings, etc.

- (i) Number of cases attended by home nurses under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority 910
- (ii) Number of visits paid by nurses to above 21,438

5. Domestic Help (Section 28)

- (i) Number of domestic helps employed at end of year :
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Whole-time | 1 |
| (b) Part-time | 43 |
| (c) Retaining fee basis | Nil |
- (ii) Number of cases for which domestic helps were provided during the year :
- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (a) Temporary Incapacity :
(Monetary grant up to 7s. per week given to recipient by National Assistance Board) | 4 |
| No monetary grant given | 52 |
| (b) Confinements | 37 |
| (c) Post Confinements | 22 |
| (d) Chronic Sick (monetary grant up to 7s. per week made to recipient by National Assistance Board) | 16 |
| (e) Chronic Sick (no monetary grant given) | 41 |
| (f) Senility (monetary grant up to 7s. per week made to recipient by National Assistance Board) | 25 |
| (g) Senility (no monetary grant given) | 21 |
| (iii) Average period of assistance | 134.5 hours |

6. Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Emphasis has been placed on the role of the general practitioner in regard to diphtheria immunisation and also to vaccination against smallpox. It may be necessary, however, to amend the arrangements, if not the Burgh's administrative scheme, to shift this emphasis back to the Authority's own medical staff.

The following statistics show the work done during the year :

(1) VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :

Number of vaccinations by general practitioners	683
Number of vaccinations by Child Welfare Officer	289

(2) IMMUNISATIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :

	<i>Doses</i>	
	<i>First</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>
Number of inoculations by general practitioners	189	14
Number of inoculations by Child Welfare Officer	366	256

(3) WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION :

Number of first visits only	30
Number of return visits	86

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of Persons primarily vaccinated during period :

Year of Birth of Persons	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th to 7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	No local reaction
1950	80	10	1	14
1949	119	2	2	11
1948	44	—	—	1
1947	15	1	—	—
1946	11	—	—	1
1945	7	—	1	—
1944	14	1	—	—
1943	8	1	—	—
1942	12	—	—	—
1941	9	—	—	1
1940	7	—	—	—
1939	12	—	—	—
1938	7	—	—	—
1937	2	—	—	1
1936	5	—	—	—
1935 or earlier	71	1	2	3
Totals	423	16	6	32

Number of Persons re-vaccinated during period :

Year of Birth of Persons	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th to 7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	No local reaction
1950	1	4	—	—
1949	—	1	—	1
1948	7	—	—	1
1947	2	—	3	—
1946	3	—	—	1
1945	2	—	1	—
1944	3	2	—	—
1943	1	—	1	—
1942	3	2	2	2
1941	4	1	—	2
1940	3	—	1	1
1939	5	1	3	—
1938	4	2	1	1
1937	2	2	1	—
1936	9	1	1	1
1935 or earlier	135	50	182	39
Totals	184	66	196	49

Note.—No person was specially reported during the period because of actual or alleged complication of vaccination.

TABLE VII
Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth of Persons	No. of New Immunisations completed during period	No. of maintenance inoculations given during period	Confirmed cases of Diphtheria during period	
			Immunised	Non-immunised
1950	11	—	—	—
1949	220	—	—	—
1948	115	—	—	—
1947	45	—	—	—
1946	10	—	—	—
1945	7	22	—	—
1944	65	176	—	—
1943	24	14	—	—
1942	16	13	—	—
1941	3	10	—	—
1940	24	26	—	—
1939	10	6	—	—
1938	5	1	—	—
1937	—	2	—	—
1936	—	—	—	—
1935	—	—	—	—
Totals	555	270	Nil	Nil

No case of Diphtheria occurred in the Burgh during the year.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care (Section 27)

The principles of Section 27 have been liberally interpreted in households where difficulties arose in providing medical or other requisites. In this connection the National Assistance Board, the Executive Council, and the Hospital Board officials have been most co-operative. The main difficulty has not been to determine what can be given but rather to decide which is the most appropriate authority.

During the year goods, comprising beds and bedding, to the value of £18 3s. were supplied to two applicants suffering from tuberculosis. The financial circumstances in both cases were such that no monetary recovery could be made.

8. Control of Infectious Diseases

As has been mentioned in the Foreword no special epidemiological problem arose during the year. Some anxiety was experienced following an outbreak of smallpox in the West but timely warning was obtained, albeit fortuitously, and the necessary precautions were taken. Tuberculosis remains the only infectious disease which is not under satisfactory control. Reference has been made to this in previous reports. New notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis have risen from twenty-one in 1940 to seventy-eight in 1950, the figures being shown as under :

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
21	33	35	40	36	46	50	60	54	63	78

The War undoubtedly raised the numbers but in the light of experience of the previous World War the incidence should have returned to normal by 1948. Up to and including 1948 there was no special difficulty in accommodating patients in the Burgh's sanatorium, nor was it necessary during the War to clear sanatorium beds for other purposes. The diagnostic facilities at the Dispensary were always excellent and no delay was experienced in receiving early cases from the general practitioners in the Burgh. A "pilot" experiment in mass radiography was applied to two big industrial firms and there was no evidence that early cases were escaping the vigilance of the general practitioners. One can therefore assume that there is nothing other than a real increase in the incidence of tuberculosis in Kirkcaldy. As has been indicated in previous reports a much more vigorous and realistic approach will require to be directed against tuberculosis. This refers especially to the segregation of active cases who are disseminating the disease and to the protection which can be afforded by B.C.G. vaccination.

TABLE VIII

Nature of Disease	No. of Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Not Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Cerebro Spinal Fever	6	4	2	1
Chickenpox	315	1	314	—
Dysentery	8	2	6	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	19	—	19	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	—
Jaundice, acute infective	12	—	12	2
Measles	278	1	277	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia, acute primary	93	53	40	20
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	6	1	5	3
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis, acute	30	29	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	39	2	37	—
Whooping Cough	460	1	459	2
Gastro Enteritis	8	7	1	7
TOTALS	1,279	106	1,173	36

Tuberculosis

(1) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Seventy-eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1950 as compared with sixty-three for the previous year.

TABLE IX

Age Period	No. of cases notified		No. of notified cases receiving Sanatorium Treatment		No. of deaths of notified cases		Total Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	1	3	1	3	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 "	6	14	5	12	—	—	1	2
25 to 35 "	7	15	7	7	—	1	2	2
35 to 45 "	8	1	4	2	2	—	2	—
45 to 65 "	12	—	4	—	2	—	6	2
65 upwards	3	3	—	—	3	—	4	—
TOTALS	39	39	21	27	7	1	15	6

Five males and five females whose ages range from 21 to 49 years were cases transferred from other areas during 1950.

(2) NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Fifteen cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1950, as compared with thirteen cases for the previous year.

TABLE X

Age Period	No. of cases notified		No. of notified cases receiving Sanatorium Treatment		No. of deaths of notified cases		Total Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years		1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
15 to 25 "	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	2
25 to 35 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 "	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 65 "	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS	7	8	2	1	—	1	2	4

The site of the disease was found to be :

Spine	1	(1m. -f.)
Glands of Neck	7	(3m. 4f.)
T.B. Meningitis	1	(-m. 1f.)
Kidney	1	(1m. -f.)
Rectum	1	(-m. 1f.)
Bones and Joints	3	(1m. 2f.)
T.B. Enteritis	1	(1m. -f.)

Two males and one female whose ages range from 5 to 14 years were transferred from other areas during the year.

Veneral Diseases

The following table summarises the work of the Kirkcaldy Dispensary, which also serves East Fife.

TABLE XI

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other V.D.		Other than V.D.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total Attend's.	1110	487	315	36	287	51	86	48	1798	622
No. of admissions for treatment	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Aggregate number of in-patient days	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
SERVICE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AREAS										
Home areas	5		21		17		23		66	
Other Scottish Areas	10		17		26		21		74	
Areas outside Scotland	—		16		8		2		26	

NEW CASES—AGE IN YEAR OF ADMISSION TO REGISTER

	Under 5 Years		5 to 15 Years		15 to 25 Years		25 to 35 Years		35 years		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Syphilis	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	7	1	13	2
Gonorrhoea	—	—	—	—	10	3	23	4	13	2	46	9
Other V.D.	—	—	—	1	11	2	22	2	13	1	46	6
Other than V.D.	—	—	1	2	10	2	8	5	12	6	31	15
TOTALS	—	—	1	4	32	7	58	11	45	10	136	32

9. Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Service is composite in that it comprises the activities of the "Authorised" and School Medical Officers of the Local Authority with their associated nurses and clinics, the services provided by Fife Education Authority and those of the Mental Hospital Board. The Burgh performs certain functions as Agent of the last-named Authority. The over-all picture shows that, while there is no difficulty in ascertaining and certifying mental deficiency there remains

the old problem of finding institutional accommodation. The type of case which causes most anxiety is the higher grade mental defective with amoral tendencies at the critical stage of adolescence. Without adequate facilities their activities cannot be controlled nor directed into proper channels and they are likely to become menaces not only to themselves but to the community.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Children (under 16 years)—at ordinary schools	—	—
at special schools	—	—
at no school	—	—
in institutions	1	5
Adults (under private guardianship) in institutions (inc. 1 m. and 1 f. in Abden Home)	17	12

LUNACY :

The following statistics show the position at Fife District Mental Hospital with regard to Burgh patients :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Number chargeable at 31/12/49	79	73
Number certified insane and removed to Fife District Mental Hospital during 1950	12	9
Discharges during 1950	3	1
Deaths during 1950	14	10
Number chargeable at 31/12/50	74	71

10. Nurseries and Child-Minders' Regulations Act, 1948

No applications have been received for registration.

B. School Health Service

A full report on the Medical Services has been forwarded for inclusion in the main report of the Fife Education Authority. A brief summary relating to the calendar year 1950 is given herewith :

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of parents present at medical inspections :			
(a) with entrant infants	232	250	482
(b) with others (second age group)	215	220	435
(c) at clinics	—	—	90
Number of examinations :			
Entrants	298	305	603
Second age group	494	469	963
Third age group	253	304	557
Vision testing (6-7 years)	341	367	708
Fourth age group	50	12	62
Re-examinations	955	854	1,809
Non-routines	31	47	78
	2,869	2,828	5,787

Total number of clinic sessions :

(a) General clinics	52
(b) Special clinics—Ear, Nose and Throat	1 (11 boys, 12 girls)
Eye	9

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC

Number of new cases	1,634
Total Attendances	3,976
Number of parents present	90

Treatments carried out by Nurse	New Cases	Total Attendances
Head Vermin	4	15
Scabies	2	7
Uncleanliness or neglect	6	9
Impetigo Contagiosa	68	212
Other skin conditions	113	443
Otorrhoea	78	454
Eye Disease (external)	87	178
Other cases	352	664
Cuts and Bruises	392	856
Septic conditions	375	957
Accidents	17	6
Advisory Cases	115	91
Ear cases	22	61
Nose and Throat cases	3	23
TOTALS	1,634	3,976

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of children who were inspected during the year :

Age	Systematic Examinations	Special and Emergency Cases	Total
-5	60	—	60
5	491	69	560
6	410	69	479
7	353	76	429
8	359	84	443
9	370	56	426
10	399	67	466
11	462	31	493
12	668	21	689
13	633	18	651
14	496	29	525
15	34	2	36
16	—	—	—
17	—	1	1
	4,735	523	5,258

	Systematic Examina- tions	Special and Emergency Cases	Total
Found to require treatment	3,183	523	3,706
Actually treated by School Dental Officer	1,141	523	1,664
No of attendances for treatment	2,161	981	3,142
Fillings (a) Permanent teeth	1,012	180	1,192
(b) Temporary teeth	49	22	71
Extractions			
(a) Permanent teeth	383	80	463
(b) Temporary teeth	896	544	1,440
No. of administrations of a general anaesthetic for extrac- tions	2	8	10
Other operations			
(a) Permanent teeth	778	262	1,040
(b) Temporary teeth	455	247	702
Sessions devoted to inspection	36	—	36
Half days devoted to treatment	313	100	413
Referred for X-ray	5	5	10
	10,414	3,475	13,889

Applications were received for boots and clothing as under :

	Boys	Girls
Clothing and Boots	20	13
Clothing only	1	2
Boots only	—	1

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of Children examined	1,095	1,090	2,185
Clean	750	632	1,382
Nits or head vermin	10	75	85
Visions			
Routine	341	367	708
Non-routine	41	55	96
Re-examinations	24	20	44
Referred for examination			
Routine	35	32	67
	2,296	2,271	4,567

Twenty children of school age were accommodated for short periods in Children's Convalescent Homes—10 at Humble (Seaforth Sanatorium Trust), 10 at the S.L.S.S.C.C. Home, St. Andrews.

C. Port Health Administration

Kirkcaldy is not a port recognised under the Convention for Deratisation. Forty-three ships from foreign ports entered Kirkcaldy Harbour during 1950 and pratique was granted in all cases.

A Colorado beetle was discovered in a cargo of rags from France and appropriate action was taken in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture.

D. Food Supply

Shown in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, pages 28-32.

E. Miscellaneous

1. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 :

Abden Home continues to act as an institution under the Act for the reception of cases under Parts II and III. A certain number of hospital cases still remain in Abden Home.

		Part III. Accommodation			Part II. Accommodation			Hospital	
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.
Number chargeable at 31/12/49	K.	27	9	2	—	1	—	—	3
Admitted during 1950	D.	9	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	K.	49	18	7	49	4	—	—	—
	D.	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Discharges during 1950	K.	47	9	9	47	5	—	—	1
	D.	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths during 1950	K.	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	D.	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number chargeable at 31/12/50	K.	28	14	—	2	—	—	—	2
	D.	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

K.—Kirkcaldy.

D.—Dunfermline.

Registration and inspection of disabled or old persons' homes (section 37)

Nil

Removals (section 47)

Nil

Care of property (section 48)

Nil

Burials (section 50)

4

2. WORK DONE UNDER THE NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION (SCOTLAND) ACT

No nursing homes proper operate in the Burgh, exemption being granted to Kirkcaldy General Hospital and the Hunter Hospital, now the property of the South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, Scotland.

3. HEALTH EDUCATION

Lectures and talks are a regular feature of the Burgh's clinic services. In addition, officers have given numerous lectures to local associations and societies. The Health Department operates a 35 m.m. sound film projector.

4. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Under Part I of the Act the undernoted inspections for purposes of provisions as to health were made :

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	47	19	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authorities	333	186	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	—	—
	385	210	3	—

Cases in which defects were found	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	3	—
Sanitary Conveniences	—	—	—	2	—

F. General Sanitation

See Sanitary Inspector's Report, pages 33-35.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
3 WEMYSSFIELD,
KIRKCALDY, *July, 1951.*

To the PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of this Burgh for the year 1950.

HOUSING

1. General Progress

There was a decided improvement in the number of new houses completed in 1950, the total being 411 houses compared with 217 in the previous year ; of these 160 houses were built by the Town Council and 251 by the Scottish Special Housing Association. Overcrowded families rehoused in new houses numbered 123, which includes 63 from sub-let rooms, and 91 sub-let families found accommodation in the decrowded houses and elsewhere. Decanting relieved overcrowding in another 33 cases. Fourteen new houses were let to persons on medical grounds and for the general needs of the community. A total of 162 new houses were occupied by incoming miners' families at Dysart and Sauchenbush where houses have been specially built for these workers. Ten houses were built for police purposes ; 5 houses were under construction for private persons. Since post-war building commenced, some 1,530 houses have been erected and occupied.

The waiting list for houses was revised at the end of the year by the Factor's Department, and for the first time since the war, a substantial drop in applications can be recorded. The list now stands at 2,351 against 3,191 applications at the end of 1949. Analysed, the applicants include the following :—814 homeless families ; 377 overcrowded cases ; 43 families in houses classified as unfit ; 63 persons wishing hostel accommodation ; 33 about to be married ; 104 families outwith the Burgh and 917 families at present living in fit houses and not overcrowded. There are, of course, several hundred families living in houses which should be condemned, and whose numbers are not included in the above figures, so that a solution of the housing problem in Kirkcaldy is still a long way off. Preparations were being made at the end of the year for a survey of houses, shops and other premises in a section of Links Street as a redevelopment area.

Plans for alterations and improvements to houses were examined in 26 cases, and preliminary plans were submitted for the formation of 2 modern houses in a two-storey tenement where the ground floor houses had been officially closed prior to the war. The grant provisions of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, are not being used to any extent.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

2. Milk Supply

Practically all the milk sold in the Burgh is of pasteurised or graded quality ; only one dairyman sells loose ungraded milk in any quantity, and an upgrading to Tuberculin Tested standard is likely to be made here early next year. Three new milk retail vans came into service replacing worn-out vehicles. Few complaints were received about the poor keeping quality of milk, but in April and May, when the cows went to grass, there were numerous complaints about the fishy taste and smell of milk supplied by one retailer and produced at modern dairy premises in the County. It was never really found out what was the cause of the unusual flavour, but by a process of elimination, it was eventually discovered that five cows in the herd produced milk with a strong fishy smell. For a time the milk from the cows concerned was fed to calves, but later returned to normal quality and smell again. A defective water supply at a County farm also upset the good quality of Tuberculin Tested milk sold by two local retailers ; an improvement to the water supply is understood to be receiving attention.

The two milk pasteurising plants functioned satisfactorily throughout the year, and routine inspections were carried out during milk processing and plant cleaning operations. Modern narrow necked bottles with overlapping tin foil covers and new bottling plant is under consideration at the Kirkcaldy and District Co-operative Society Creamery. Milk cans were examined regularly at the creameries for cleanliness and disrepair ; it is still found that a few old cans come into circulation during the flush season of milk. Sealing of milk cans by farmers before delivery to a common carrier is not being carried out as it should be in terms of Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Order, 1934, and efforts to ensure compliance are under consideration.

Forty inspections were made to dairy byres in the Burgh, mainly at milking time ; the cleanliness of the premises and dairy equipment was found to be reasonably good. One dairyman was warned to keep his byres in better condition. Milking machines are fitted at four farms. There are 10 exempted dairy premises, housing 26 cows, mainly at smallholdings ; the milk is used for calf rearing and home consumption.

Details of dairy premises registered and licenced in 1950 were as follows :—

(1) REGISTRATIONS : MILK AND DAIRIES (Scotland) ACT, 1914

	<i>Number</i>
Dairy byres capable of housing 153 cows (actual cows 123)	7
Milk retailers retailing within the Burgh	19
Retail Shops where only bottled milk is sold	20
Producers and wholesalers who do not sell by retail	5

(2) LICENCES : MILK (Special Designations) ORDERS

	<i>Number</i>
Supplementary licences to sell Certified Milk	1
Dealers licenced to sell Certified Milk	2
Supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	—
Dealers licenced to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
Producers licenced to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Dealers licenced to sell Pasteurised Milk	2
Pasteurisers' licences	2

3. Milk (Special Designations) Orders

Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological analysis were as follows :—

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Conformed</i>	<i>Did not Conform</i>
Certified Milk	19	19	—
Tuberculin Tested Milk	70	66	4
Pasteurised Milk	55	55	—
	<u>144</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>4</u>

The four Tuberculin Tested milk samples not conforming showed the presence of B. Coli in 1/100th of a millilitre. Sixteen samples of ordinary sweet milk were submitted for bacteriological analysis during the year ; five were positive for B. Coli in 1/100th of a millilitre, and only three samples produced bacterial counts of between 100,000 and 200,000. The latter results show an improvement over last year's sweet milk samples.

4. Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

During the year, a total of 275 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst consisting of the following various articles :—

<i>Foods</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not Conforming</i>
Milk	163	1
Ice Cream (43), Choc. Blocks (5)	48	—
Mince	8	—
Sausages	8	—
Whisky	7	—
Rum	1	—
Cooking Fat	6	—
Butter	4	—
Margarine	4	—
Meat Paste	2	—
Condensed Milk	2	—
Fruit Slab Cake	1	—
Genoa Cake (1), Sponge Roll (1)	2	—
Raisins	1	—
Baking Powder (1), Baking Soda (1)	2	—

<i>Foods</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Not Conforming</i>
Milk Whipping Compound	1	—
Jam (1), Honey (1), Coffee (1)	3	—
Processed Peas (1), Vinegar (1)	2	—
Tomato Ketchup (1), Corned Beef (1)	2	—
<i>Drugs</i>		
Citric Acid (1), Tartaric Acid (1)	2	—
Camphorated Oil (1), Boracic Acid (1)	2	—
Sweet Spirits of Nitre (1), Glycerine (1)	2	—
Borax (1), Olive Oil (1)	2	—
	<u>275</u>	<u>1</u>

MILK.—One sample was found to be below standard for non-fatty solids. The following shows the average quality of the milk supply as reported by the Public Analyst on the 163 samples. This is slightly lower than last year.

Water	87.48
Total Solids	12.52
Milk Fat	3.79
Non-Fatty Solids	8.73
	<u>100.00</u>

MINCE (8), SAUSAGES (8).—Four samples of mince contained no preservative the remainder contained small quantities of sulphur dioxide per million parts and conformed to the Regulations. The sausages were found not to contain an excess of preservative.

BUTTER (4), MARGARINE (4).—These were examined for excess of water, 16% being allowed; all were below this standard.

CORNEBEEF (1), FRUIT SLAB CAKE (1).—These were sent for analysis after complaint about peculiar flavour and ill-effects following consumption. The corned beef was found to contain nothing of an irritating nature to cause illness and the flavour of the cake was probably due to the use of peanut butter in its manufacture.

ICE CREAMS (48).—The usual wide range of fat content in ice cream samples was found this year again. The need for a standard for this commodity is desirable. The bacterial counts, on the whole, were satisfactory. B. Coli was absent in 1/10 ml. in 19 samples, in 1/100th ml. in 26 samples, while it was present in 1/100th ml. in 3 samples. A summary of the results is as follows:—

	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>
Fat	*19.34%	1.40%	6.67%
Bacterial Count at 37°C.	125,000	200	19,077

Note.—The sample giving the high fat percentage of 19.34% contained chocolate; highest fat content for a straight ice cream was 10.62% which is practically back to a pre-war quality.

OTHER SAMPLES.—A number was examined for the presence of mineral oil ; none was found. All the drugs complied with the B.P. Standard.

FOOD LAWS.—Most manufacturers of pre-packed foods rigidly comply with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order, 1926, and its subsequent amendments, and few infringements were noted during inspections. There were no seizures of food during the year in terms of section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. No administrative action was necessary in respect of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, and the Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regulations. Whalemeat has not been a popular foodstuff in this district.

5. Food Premises

It is pleasing to report further progress in the alteration and improvement of food shops and premises throughout the town ; those recently modernised include bakers' shops, restaurants and meal shops. The fact that the owners are not compelled by law at present to effect these higher standards is commendable and shows the general interest which is being taken in the hygienic display and distribution of food nowadays. Good premises themselves, however, are not the only necessity to ensure clean food free from contamination of any kind, and the steps formulated last year to give shop workers a better knowledge of the prevention of food borne infections also made progress. In conjunction with the Scottish Council for Health Education, two talks, illustrated with films, were given to about 250 employees in the various food trades, and pamphlets stressing the need for cleanliness of the personnel in all their habits, and the protection of foodstuffs in shops against contamination by flies and vermin, were distributed to food handlers throughout the town. Other lectures have been arranged to continue the Clean Food Campaign. It is difficult to assess the value of these efforts, but an example can be quoted. The staff of a creamery attended one of the talks which included the film, " Another Case of Poisoning." The film shows many obvious faults and careless methods in food handling and finally the speaker sums up by stressing the desirable points which should be exercised including the simple one of washing the hands thoroughly and regularly. A wash-hand basin, asked to be installed several years ago near the bottling plant at the creamery, was seldom used. Its presence is now appreciated !

A survey of public house premises was made during the year to obtain information about the arrangements in use for the cleansing of drinking glasses. Chrome sinks are being fitted in most premises, including a supply of hot and cold water, detergents of different kinds are being added to the washing water to assist cleansing, and some bars are fitted with glass cleaning apparatus.

Inspections to food premises in 1950 totalled 820, and much helpful advice was given in connection with the destruction of flies and similar pests. While some food shops are not entirely free from mice

nuisance, rats in food premises are practically unknown. Bake-houses need attention for cleanliness and freedom from insect pests, including beetles ; one baker was advised to improve his standard of cleanliness. The business of fish friers and of fresh fish vendors is not easy to operate free from nuisance unless a very high standard of cleanliness is maintained ; complaints about offensive smells in warm weather are not infrequent and fly nuisance arises if the fish boxes are carelessly washed out and accumulated ; the refuse and offal from these premises also need careful storage and frequent removal. Spraying with a D.D.T. solution had to be undertaken at a number of fish premises to control fly infestation. Greengrocer shops show some improvement by the display of vegetables in wire racks and less food in sacks on the floor. Vehicles used for food are likewise making progress, and several modern travelling shops now operate in the new housing schemes. At the end of the year, it was learned that a new meat delivery van was under construction for the transport of meat from the Burgh Abattoir to retail butchers' shops.

6. Unsound Food

During the year the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption ; wherever possible, the condemned food was used for animal feeding.

	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Fresh Fruit	486	12
Canned Fruit	2,190	15
Fresh Vegetables	916	—
Canned Vegetables	1,383	1
Fresh Fish	555	6
Canned Fish	140	11
Canned Meat	1,500	—
Canned Meat and Vegetables	45	4
Canned Milk	686	9
Canned Soup	576	2
Canned Jam	324	4
Miscellaneous	2,021	9
Total	<u>10,826</u>	<u>9</u>

7. Meat

In his report, Mr. Walsh, Slaughterhouse Superintendent, provides the following statistics :

Class of Animals	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of condemned meat and offals
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle	3,452	lbs. 86=42,689	lbs. 83= 8,310	lbs. Offals 65,146
Sheep	21,441	45= 2,047	55= 924	„ 3,186
Pigs	672	10= 1,975	47= 893	„ 1,425
Calves	1,490	18= 625	nil	„ 337
Totals	27,055	159=47,336	185=10,127	„ 70,094

During the year 1950, 36 cattle carcasses affected by cysticercus Bovis were treated by freezing.

8. Ice Cream Premises

Progress was made with the registration of premises in terms of the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948, alterations at a number of places being completed. At the end of the year only five cases were outstanding. The total number of premises and vehicles registered by the Local Authority stands as undernoted :—

Manufacturing Premises	11
Retail Premises	27
Retail Vehicles (Motor)	23
Retail Vehicles (Horse)	6
Retail Vehicles (Barrows, etc.)	13

There are 24 shopkeepers retailing pre-wrapped ice cream. Altogether, 174 inspections were made to ice cream premises. It is noted that there is a recent increase in the manufacture and sale of ice lollies, some cabinets being installed in greengrocers' premises. On hygienic grounds, this new line will require to be watched.

GENERAL SANITATION

9. Nuisances and Sanitary Defects

During the year, 360 complaints were received from members of the public, and 125 nuisances and sanitary defects were discovered by the Inspectors in the course of their duties.

The abatement of nuisances necessitated 3,573 inspections and revisits. There were 243 intimations and notices served in terms of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, and the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892.

Five Statutory Notices were served under Section 327 of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, for the paving and draining of two open areas. As the work was not carried out by the joint owners within the specified time in the Notices, the Local Authority is carrying out the work at the expense of the owners.

Sanitary improvements completed during the year were as follows :—

1.	Dirty houses and premises cleaned	8
2.	Dirty W.C. apartments cleansed	5
3.	Dirty stairs and passages cleansed	4
4.	Dirty areas and courts cleansed	6
5.	Verminous houses sprayed and fumigated	5
6.	Other verminous conditions remedied	19
7.	Dampness in houses abated or improved	35
8.	Defective sinks repaired or renewed	4
9.	Defective water closets repaired or renewed	14
10.	Defective rhones and waste pipes repaired	21
11.	Choked sinks, tubs and water closets cleared	12
12.	Choked drains and traps cleared	50
13.	Sinks introduced or renewed	4
14.	Staircases and passages limewashed and painted	54
15.	Accumulation of rubbish removed	10
16.	Accumulation of manure removed	1
17.	Miscellaneous nuisances	108
Total		360

Many of the nuisances abated helped to discourage the breeding of house flies and bluebottles, for these insects usually deposit their eggs on accumulations of decaying material. Measures to control fly breeding were put into effect early in the summer and these included visits to such premises as stables, piggeries, farms, fish shops, butchers' shops and refuse tips where the occupiers were advised as to the best methods of fly prevention. In a number of cases, arrangements were made for the treatment of the premises by the staff of the department. The work was extended to take in the beaches and foreshore frequented by the public and band spraying with a 5 per cent. D.D.T. solution was carried out on the sea wall, rocks and part of the foreshore near the outfall sewers. It was difficult to assess the value of this work for the summer was not too favourable for fly-breeding, but it was thought the spraying had been effective.

Woodworm infestation also claimed attention during the year ; at one dwelling house and in the basement of an hotel, these wood boring insects had caused considerable damage which necessitated a replacement of timber work. The damage caused by woodworm is now being more fully appreciated by the public ; these pests are more widespread in furniture and buildings than is generally realised. There was an increase in the number of choked drains and water-closets reported this year ; the drainage from a school, which sometimes caused slight flooding in the street at a lower level, was found to be due to a fractured drain pipe and a fractured water main in the same track. Crude sewage, from an estate lodge, was found to discharge directly into a burn near a main road ; the drains are now connected to the sewer.

Limewashing of stables, byres and piggeries received regular attention by occupiers; notices were issued where required, for the whitewashing or painting of common passages and stairs, and despite increasing costs, this work was also well attended. The Corporation carried out the annual limewashing of common lanes and passages throughout the Burgh.

Camping on waste ground at Seafield during July and August was on a reduced scale this year; campers now want something more than just a site to set down the tent. Properly laid-out camping grounds equipped with sanitation, laid-on water and other facilities will eventually appeal to most of those people who wish to have this care-free form of holiday. The annual fair, with its influx of caravans and travelling showmen, did not necessitate other than the usual measures for supervision and cleanliness during its stay in the town.

With regard to house property repairs, rising costs are restricting the work considerably, and most landlords are only doing the minimum of maintenance repairs to their properties. The low rental of many of the old tenement houses adds to the problem of adequate upkeep and attached outbuildings, such as coalhouses and wash-houses are falling into disrepair. There is no demand for tenement property unless a house is vacant. The owners of a tenement of 14 houses in reasonably good repair, with an annual rental of about £90, handed it over to the Town Council free of charge during the year. Other properties were offered at very low purchase prices. This procedure will probably develop more widely in the future, for many owners now find that they are quite unable to meet all the obligations of ownership of property.

10. Rat Destruction

Visits and inspections to premises likely to harbour rats and mice totalled 543 for the year. No serious infestation of rats was discovered or reported, but mice were found in a number of shops, restaurants and institutions. Active measures were taken to destroy the vermin both by the occupiers and by the Council's part-time officer specially skilled in this work so that most infestations were kept under control. Test baits at several sewer manholes did not show the presence of rats. Corporation refuse dumps were treated regularly throughout the season; rats were not found to any extent. Vermin destroyed throughout the year numbered 192 rats and 671 mice.

11. Water

(a) DOMESTIC.—There was a plentiful supply of drinking water available throughout the year and the reservoirs were back to normal again following the wet summer and autumn. One complaint was received from workers at a factory that the water had a peculiar taste. Investigation did not show any unusual features about the supply to the premises. A sample of the water was submitted for analysis, and the report thereon stated that the water was of good quality and bacteriologically excellent.

(b) **SWIMMING POOL WATER.**—One sample of water was taken from a privately owned swimming pool to check the efficiency of the purification system. The sample was reported to be bacteriologically good.

12. Factories

There was an increase in mechanical factories and a decrease in non-mechanical factories in the town following a revision of the register, the position now being 333 of the former and 47 of the latter. Some 150 inspections were made to factories, mainly in connection with cleanliness of the sanitary accommodation. Fifty-one visits were made to bakehouses regarding regular limewashing or painting of the wall surfaces and general cleanliness. Four notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories about overdue limewashing, and insufficient and unsuitable W.C. and urinal accommodation at factories. The owners were advised of the defects and these were remedied to the satisfaction of the Local Authority. Plans were submitted for approval in respect of new or improved sanitary accommodation at 20 factories and for 4 new factories.

13. Shops Acts

Three new shops were opened at a large housing scheme early in the year bringing the total number of shops in the town to 769. Following a change of tenancy, 46 shops were surveyed in terms of the Shops Act, 1934, and 431 visits were made to shop premises in respect of the exhibition of statutory notices. Only a few minor infringements were discovered; these were immediately rectified.

The organisers of a display and sale of women's clothing in a local hall had to be warned to adhere to the closing hours during their short stay in the town.

14. Places of Public Refreshment

A total of 133 visits was made to these premises; five certificates of registration were granted in respect of transfer of business. One new place was opened bringing the number of such premises registered in the Burgh to 44. No infringement of the byelaws was reported or discovered.

15. Lodging Houses

A definite decision about the closure of Birrell Street Wynd lodging house has not yet been made, but this cannot be long delayed owing to the worn-out condition of the premises. One of the main problems involved is accommodation for the persons to be displaced. It is felt, however, that once it is known the house will be closed on a definite date, most of the lodgers will find their own accommodation or seek institutional shelter. The only other lodging house in the town is at Mid Street, which is also an old building. Twenty-four inspections were made to lodging houses; the need for cleaner premises and cleaner bedding had to be mentioned to the keepers on several occasions.

The average number of men staying at Birrell Street Wynd during the year was 36 ; at Mid Street this number was 20.

16. Smoke, Grit, and Fumes

Seven complaints of smoke nuisance were received and 14 defects due to smoky domestic appliances were investigated. Twenty-five observations of factories and works' chimneys were recorded in 1950 and 26 inspections of boiler plant and furnaces carried out. In 7 cases, it was necessary to send warning letters about excessive discharge of smoke. Complaints from householders about smoke and grit from railway engines during shunting operations and from stationary engines standing in looplines, were also investigated and found to be justified. An improvement was brought about when the railway authorities agreed to instruct the locomotive drivers concerned on methods to avoid smoke nuisance near dwellings. When the power cuts came along early in November, one firm tried to meet the emergency by forcing their own power plant, and for several hours, the worst smoke nuisance seen in the town for some years occurred. Fortunately the wind carried the smoke over a large housing area still in the building stage, but it could be traced as far as Chapel. With the development of housing in all parts of the Burgh, smoke complaints are arising in districts not previously built upon. Dysart golf course site is a case in point. When strong west or south-west winds blow, the smoke from a fairly extensive, industrial area is carried right over this large housing scheme, and soot and grit is left in its trail.

One assistant sanitary inspector has been specially trained by the Ministry of Fuel and Power engineering staff this past summer in the work of fuel efficiency and smoke abatement, and it is hoped his specialised knowledge will assist materially in reducing excessive smoke and grit discharge from factory chimneys. In the cases tackled so far, the improvements made are encouraging. It was also possible, in conjunction with the Ministry of Fuel and Power, to start evening classes in Boiler House Practice for firemen and stokers at the winter term in the Technical School, with the qualified assistant as lecturer. Some 25 students enrolled for the course following a descriptive film show covering some aspects of the work.

A permanent remedy has not yet been found to stop the fumes, grit and dust nuisances which arise periodically from the Tully plant at the Gas Works. They were particularly offensive during March when repairs and overhaul to the plant were being carried out ; the nuisances continued in varying degree for some months afterwards. A remedy is not going to be easy to find, but householders in the vicinity of the works and for a good distance beyond, feel that they cannot be expected to tolerate these unsatisfactory conditions indefinitely. Little progress was made to abate the fumes nuisance from a cement mixing department at a linoleum factory. Plant for the purpose was on order, but had not yet been delivered. A smoke and fumes complaint from several householders in Edington Place, Dysart, was found to be mainly caused by the burning redd bin at the Frances Pit outside the Burgh boundary although a small quarry inside

the Burgh was also found to be causing offence. The County authorities and the N.C.B. co-operated in reducing the bing nuisance to some extent ; the nuisance at the quarry has now almost burned itself out.

17. Burial Grounds

The Parks Department supervises the main burial grounds in the Burgh, and they are kept in a satisfactory manner. A few burials took place at one burial ground attached to a church. The other five old burying grounds in the town are seldom used and only for those with right of burial there ; they are maintained in a reasonable condition. The burial of persons without relatives or friends to undertake this duty is now carried out by the Welfare Department under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

18. Rivers Pollution

The gross pollution of the East Burn in its lower reaches by the waste water from a felt factory was the subject of a discussion with the owners. It was learned that the alterations and improvements recently undertaken at the works, including the installation of save-all tanks, would not remedy the complaint to any extent. The question of taking this trade waste into a new sewer to be laid along the course of the burn, or by a separate pipe to join a new outfall sewer which is proposed for this area, is now under consideration by the Burgh Engineer's Department.

The growth of water weeds continues in the slow moving section of the Tiel Burn between the two bridges, and not far from where it enters the sea. No actual nuisance has been found to be caused by the presence of the weeds in the water course.

19. Schools, Cinemas, Public Buildings and Dance Halls

Twenty-four inspections were made to schools, mainly in connection with cleanliness of the sanitary accommodation. The buildings were found to be receiving regular attention ; small structural alterations and improvements are usually carried out annually. Plans were submitted for renovating the outside sanitary conveniences at the West School ; this work has been under consideration for a long time. Thirty-one inspections were made to cinemas, dance halls and similar premises, mainly in connection with ventilation, cleanliness and sanitary accommodation. Generally, the buildings were found to be well maintained. Some improvements were carried out at a small picture house which had remained closed during part of the previous year ; plans of the proposals are now being prepared. Internal re-decoration of the main building is also needed at these premises ; the staircases and lobbies have now been painted. Plans were also submitted for improved sanitary accommodation at three churches and by a linoleum firm for alterations and additions to a large house to convert it into a social centre with concert hall for their employees.

20. Offices

Visits were made to offices during the year in the course of survey of sanitary accommodation at these premises. A number was found

to have very limited toilet facilities, and space for extension would not be readily obtained. Some progress, however, can be reported, for plans were submitted covering the installation of new sanitary accommodation and washing facilities at offices and for enlarging others. Many outside firms continue to seek office premises within the town ; most desire accommodation in the High Street area.

21. Public Cleansing

Public Cleansing is one of the most important services carried out on behalf of the community. One can well imagine the unwholesome and insanitary conditions which would arise from a failure of this work, even for a short time ; fortunately there were no interruptions of any kind throughout the year. The cleansing services include collection and disposal of house refuse and salvage, and a certain amount of trade refuse, street cleansing and the supervision and maintenance of public conveniences. The total cost of public cleansing for the year ended 15th May, 1950, after deducting income of £4,402, was £25,320 equal to a net cost of 10/4 per head of the population. Based on estimated weights from quarterly weighings, it was found to cost 16/8 to collect and dispose of a ton of refuse.

A thrice weekly refuse collection was maintained in all the main parts of the town and for all housing schemes built prior to the war. A twice weekly refuse collection was made at housing schemes built since the war, and this work was all carried out as an afternoon service. The development towards the all-day refuse collection was needed to keep the refuse vehicles fully employed, and to meet the changing conditions of more streets and houses being added to the town by the rapidly expanding housing schemes. Salvage is collected by trailers attached to the refuse vehicles and by separate collections of waste paper from shop premises. Street cleansing was continued satisfactorily with the aid of a mechanical sweeper collector and by a motor gully emptier, but manual sweeping is still the basis of the service. Nineteen men, equipped with modern street orderly barrows and other appropriate equipment were wholly employed on street sweeping duties ; a number of part-time sweepers was added each afternoon. Difficulty was found at one new housing scheme in providing a satisfactory street cleansing service while building works were proceeding on the opposite side from occupied houses. The completion of all the houses soon should rectify the position. Snow and frost did not call for undue expenditure this year.

Balbarton and Gallatown Quarry are the two outlets for the disposal of Burgh refuse ; between them, some 17,000 tons of refuse and street sweepings were deposited. Refuse disposal started on the recently acquired land at Gallatown in connection with the formation of a Sports Stadium. A supply of soil from a nearby housing scheme was deposited at this tip during the year and helped considerably in trimming up the layered refuse. A start was made with the formation of a road down to the lower field at Balbarton where refuse tipping will start when the upper layers are completed in the course of the next few years. Enquiries were made in the Chapel area for land suitable for tipping, and a site has been provisionally earmarked for the purpose.

Negotiations to acquire this land will take place later when tipping at Gallatown Quarry Stadium is nearer an end.

A start was made with the erection of a public convenience for ladies and gents. at Hill Street, Kirkcaldy, and renovations also commenced at the gents' convenience at east end High Street. Improvements and small additions are to be made to Gallatown Terminus ladies' lavatory and provisions for ladies is to be added to the present recently improved gents' convenience at Cook Street, Dysart. Public conveniences need regular attention to keep them clean and free from nuisance; disrepair and defects must also be promptly remedied, otherwise they soon acquire a neglected appearance which invites abuse of the premises. There are still complaints about inadequate directional signs leading to the Esplanade conveniences despite the erection of several new signs last year.

22. Sewers and Drains

The supervision of sewers and the testing of new drains are under the care of the Burgh Engineer. Except for short periods during thunder storms, when some slight flooding took place, the sewers functioned satisfactorily. The comminutor being provided on the Castle Brae outfall sewer was completed and went into service during the summer. Work also proceeded for the introduction of a comminutor on the line of the Den outfall sewer. Both sewers discharge into the sea at Pathhead, which has popular bathing beaches. A combined new outfall sewer is proposed there and float tests for a suitable position were made throughout the year.

The Town Council has decided to reduce the sewage pollution along the foreshore at the earliest opportunity in the interests of amenity and public health.

23. Pharmacy and Poisons Acts and Orders

There were 37 shopkeepers on the Council's list of authorised sellers of Part II poisons. No samples were submitted for analysis during the year, nor did visits to shopkeepers selling such substances reveal any infringements. Bottles and containers examined were correctly labelled.

24. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs

Five samples were submitted for examination and analysis and the results compared with the guarantee given. The two feeding stuffs samples, biscuit meal and meat and bone meal, each showed a slight excess of protein over that prescribed. One lime fertiliser, which was later found to be old stock affected by dampness, showed a marked deficiency in lime content: the dried blood fertiliser produced a higher nitrogen content than the manufacturer claimed and the basic slag was also found to be superior in all its main constituents. The sellers were informed of the results.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PAGE, *Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

